Library

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Medical Officer of Health,
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LIBRARY

June, 1961.

Gentlemen,

The following is my report for the year 1960. The statistics are based on a population of 1,960 which shows that the population is going steadily down. The area of the district is 74,566 acres or 116 square miles. The density is therefore 16.9 persons to a square mile.

Vital Statistics

	M.	F.	Total	Rate per 1,000 of Population
Deaths	13	17	30	15.3
Live Births	9	9	18	9
Still Births	-	-	-	-
Illegitimate Births	1	1	2	11.1% Total Births
Infants Mortality	-	-	-	-
Maternal Deaths	-	-	-	-
Deaths from Puerperal Causes			Nil	
Deaths from Cancer			3	
Deaths from Measles			Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough			Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years			Nil	

The Home Health Service is quite useful in certain cases; the daily visit to help in the household duties is much appreciated by the elderly and the infirm.

Summary of Notifications

Measles	9
Whooping Cough	5
Pneumonia	2
Erysipelas	1
T.B. Lungs	1

Summary of Deaths

	M.	F.	Total
Malignant disease of Breast		1	1
Other Malignant diseases	1	1	2
Vascular disease of Nervous System	2	5	7
Coronary disease	6	-	6
Hyper-tension	1	-	1
Other Heart diseases	-	5	5
Other Circulatory diseases	-	1	1
Influenza	1	-	1
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach	1	-	1
Gastritis	-	2	2
Other defined diseases	-	2	2
	13	17	30

Sewerage

No new scheme for sewerage has been commenced during 1960, but a scheme for Thwaite is contemplated; in this regard the fall eastward is not great and may cause difficulty. The existing sewerage disposal system at Reeth, Grinton, Healaugh, Gunnerside, Muker and Keld do not meet with the approval of the River Board.

No water has been examined chemically - only bacteriologically. There is no plumbo-solvent action in any of the water. A few stand-taps are still in existence, but they are not much in use. Here follows addendum on water supplies:

Parish	No. of Houses	No. on Public Mains	On Stand Taps	Private	No Piped Supply
MUKER	163	98	2	61	2
ELLERTON	6	-	-	6	-
ARKENGARTHDALE ..	149	90	4	51	4
GRINTON	87	33	2	44	8
MARRICK	45	12	-	27	6
MELBECKS ..	202	155	5	28	14
REETH	249	219	-	27	3
Total	901	607	13	244	37

The water supply question has made no progress and an enhanced scheme concerning a number of districts is under consideration. What started with a scheme to supply the Western half of the Union from Keld at about £8,000 has now grown to a scheme concerning a large portion of the North Riding at a cost of £602,500. During 1960 the supply for Grinton and Marrick was poor. In the latter parish there is water to be obtained about one mile to the North, but there is a hill in between which will make delivery expensive.

Bacterial Analyses: Satisfactory 3 Unsatisfactory 21

The water to the schools is examined regularly. Reeth is now satisfactory and Arkengarthdale is good.

There was only one case of Tuberculosis in the area notified in 1960. An elderly man residing as a visitor. He went home to a town in the North, and was admitted to hospital.

I conclude this report by thanking Mr. J. Metcalfe for his help on many occasions. He has now been with us so long that he knows your district well.

Yours faithfully,

W. C. SPEIRS

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REETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor - J. V. Metcalfe, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Reeth Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

WATER SUPPLIES:

Owing to the wet year under review, no shortages of water due to droughty conditions have been experienced, the supplies throughout the area, apart from Grinton and Ivelet, being well maintained. Shortages at Grinton have occurred at the higher houses when there has been a slight increase in the demand, due, not to any shortage of water, but to the inadequacy of the small diameter mains. At Ivelet, the spring serving this hamlet never recovered from the drought of the previous year until late October, owing to a change in the underground course. As an emergency, a small spring west of the storage tank was impounded and connected to the delivery main, but this only gave a slight relief. A survey of the area showed that there is no suitable alternative source of supply within a reasonable distance.

Regarding the supplies in general, the quality of the water being supplied throughout the area continues to be unsatisfactory during wet conditions owing to surface water pollution of the springs.

Bacteriological Analysis

Satisfactory 3 Unsatisfactory 21

No new schemes of water supply have been commenced during the year. Further to the proposed Dales Water Board, a committee comprising the Technical Officers of the constituent authorities held a meeting at Leyburn on May 17th following a directive given at a meeting of the Dales authorities to:-

(a) Examine each authority's programme of capital expenditure to meet the requirements set out in the Vail Report and any other extensions or amendments considered necessary.

(b) Report on the adequacy of available sources of supply.

At this meeting, the total capital cost of new works and improvements was estimated at £602,512, of which that for the Reeth area was the largest, £168,000. The latter is made up from the two schemes already submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government:- Keld to Gunnerside, £69,000: Bauldershaw to Marrick, £78,000 and an additional £21,000 for a scheme to serve Arkengarthdale including an extension and link up with the Reeth Scheme. Subsequent events have shown that the foregoing schemes will require amendment as the Bauldershaw to Marrick scheme and the link up from Arkengarthdale envisaged water being supplied to the Richmond Rural Area, but this is not now necessary as the Richmond Borough are to supply those parts of the Richmond Rural area which were to be supplied from the Reeth scheme. Accordingly, the Reeth scheme will not supply water beyond Marrick, which means a considerable saving can be made by reducing reservoir capacities, mains and elimination of long lengths of unproductive mains.

It now seems certain that there are to be no new schemes commenced until the formation of the Water Board, after which, decisions of procedure will have to be made and I cannot see any improvement to water supplies within the Reeth Rural area taking place for a few years yet. In the meantime, the demand on already inadequate supplies increases and in any droughty periods there will be shortages throughout the area.

SEWERAGE:

No new schemes of sewerage have been commenced during the year.

A scheme of sewers and sewage disposal for the village of Thwaite has been prepared and to which the North Riding County Council and the Yorkshire Ouse River Board have given approval. Planning approval has also been obtained and negotiations with the District Valuer completed.

Regarding the existing disposal works at Reeth, Grinton, Healaugh, Gunnerside, Muker and Keld, the effluent discharges continue to be classed as "Bad" by the Rivers Board.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

The search for a tipping site to which the National Parks Committee will give their approval has continued throughout the year and it was only in December that indication was given that approval to a site at Stolerston Style in the parish of Ellerton Abbey would be given, subject to the Committee being satisfied on the following points:-

(a) The tipping procedure and programme.

(b) The measures to be taken to keep the tip as inoffensive as possible, including tipping in stages with soil coverage and the erection of fences and,

(c) The access to the highway, including the grass verge.

Owing to the strictly limited labour employed by the Council together with the lack of any suitable covering materials, it was submitted that only the final top dressing could be undertaken as each section was completed. Top soil to be first removed and banked for use in final covering. The area to be fenced with a 6' 0" high close chestnut fence.

The site, although well concealed, is on a raised elevation some 20 to 30 feet above the adjoining highway and exposed to the prevailing winds and it is feared that difficulty will be experienced in preventing loose paper from blowing over the adjoining land and highway, including grass verges. The estimated life of the tip is only 14 years and for such a period, the cost of development is comparatively high.

The site previously suggested as being suitable by the Ministry Inspector, near Scabba Wath Bridge, would last for a much longer period, more covering material in the way of excavated soil would be available, the site not so exposed to the wind. The control would be more expensive as a tractor with bull dozer attachment would be required to carry out partial controlled tipping, but a more efficient system of disposal would be carried out. The Council themselves have expressed objection to the use of this site, maintaining that it is in an area much frequented by visitors and is on agricultural grazing land used by an attested herd. I am of the opinion that the same objections can be put forward in regard to the site at Stolerston Style, but in comparison, the Scabba Wath site would last over a considerably longer period for the same development costs, be less liable to nuisance and easier to control.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES:

Work on the erection of the new conveniences at Gunnerside was in progress at the end of the year.

The conveniences at Reeth, Grinton, Low Row and Muker are all attended by part time caretakers. At Reeth, during the summer months, the locks and bolts are frequently damaged, resulting in the toilets being inaccessible during busy periods.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

Conversions from dry closets to W.Cs.	19
New Drainage, inspected and tested	370 yards
Number of tests to existing drains	28
Number of houses with W.Cs.	712
Number of houses with dry closets	189
Number of houses connected to Council sewers	349

HOUSING:

Houses in Clearance Areas	Nil
Unfit houses made fit after informal action	35
Unfit houses made fit after formal action	3
Unfit houses occupied and subject to demolition ..	2
Unfit houses now vacant and subject to an undertaking not to be used for human habitation	1

RENT ACT 1957:

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	Nil

CLASSIFICATION OF HOUSES:

Number of houses in district	901
Class 1 - Fit in all respects	101
" 2 - Minor defects only	594
" 3 - Requiring repairs and improvements	191
" 5 - Unfit	15

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT 1959:

A steady rate of improvement to sub-standard houses and the provision of amenities in old houses has continued throughout the year. Completed works with the aid of the Discretionary Grant has resulted in one unfit house being restored and modernised; one division of a large house into two separate units, for two families where previously only one person was living; the conversion of an old school into a dwellinghouse; new floors in place of stone flags in two houses, together with improvements to windows and fireplaces and one house being provided with additional bedroom accommodation to meet the needs of a growing family.

Completed works to seven houses with the aid of the Standard Grant has resulted in the following amenities being provided:-

6 internal W.Cs.; 6 Baths; 6 Lavatory basins; 6 Hot Water systems; amount of grants paid being £426.

In addition to the foregoing, nine applications for the Discretionary Grant were considered and approved for grants totalling £1,187 (approved proportion £3,586). Nine applications for the Standard Grant were also approved.

There is no doubt but what the financial assistance towards these works has aided the Council in carrying out their duty under the Housing Acts of improving housing conditions within the area and without having to build Council houses to replace houses which may otherwise have become derelict.

Other Housing Improvements Carried Out (without grant aid):

Baths, Lavatory basins and hot water systems	5
Installation of W.Cs.	7
Internal piped water supplies	3
New Kitchens	3
New Larders	3
Complete modernisation	3
Conversion of buildings into dwellinghouses	2

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for housing defects (Public Health or Housing Acts) 82

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. .. 157

2. (a) Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 64

   (b) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation 1

3. Remedy of defects without service of formal notice:

   Number of houses made fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 35

4. Action under statutory powers during the year:

   (a) Proceedings under the Housing Acts in relation to individual unfit houses .. .. Nil

   (b) Statutory proceedings under the Public Health Act Nil

   (c) Proceedings under the Housing Acts for demolition of individual unfit houses .. .. .. Nil

   Number of houses which were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. Nil

HOUSING ACT 1936 Part IV - Overcrowding:

No overcrowding within the area.

RODENT CONTROL:

The Council Refuse tips at Muker and Low Level have received treatments throughout the year to control minor infestations. Sewerage works at Reeth, Grinton, Healaugh, Gunnerside and Muker have also been subject to treatments. 16 farm surveys to trace infestations were also carried out. Small infestations to houses were dealt with, these being limited to single treatments, no recurrence of infestations being reported.

FOOD:
Number and type of Food Premises in the Area

Slaughterhouses - 2; Retail Butchers shops - 2; Butchers vans retailing meat - 4; Premises registered for the preparation of cooked meats - 3; Ice Cream manufacturers - 1; Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream - 16; Bakeries - 4; Cafes - 10; General dealers, retail food shops - 17; Retail vans - 4; Vans retailing wet fish - 1. Youth Hostels - 2; Private hotels - 5; Boarding houses - 26; Licensed premises - 10.

Registered Dairies

There are no premises registered with the Local Authority, all milk retailed being from producer to retailer.

Slaughterhouses

Under the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, and the Slaughterhouses (Report) Direction, 1959, detailed inspections of the two slaughterhouses within the area were carried out and a report on the slaughterhouse facilities prepared, together with an appendix showing the works to be carried out on the existing slaughterhouses in order to comply with the "construction" Regulations. The report was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who approved the report and making the "Appointed" Day for the Regulations to apply, July 1st, 1961.

Inspection of Registered Food Premises

Cooked meat preparation	124
Ice Cream manufacturers	8
Ice Cream Sale Shops	57

All premises where food is prepared were found to be satisfactory and the business conducted with due regard to hygiene. The Ice Cream manufacturers use only the "cold mix" process. Ice Cream Sale Shops deal only in the "pre-packed" article.

Food Hygiene

No educational schemes or clean food guilds have been organised in the area.

Disposal of condemned food

No occasion arose for the condemnation of foodstuffs in shops or catering premises, the only condemnation being at the slaughterhouses - one heifer carcase brought in for emergency slaughter, inefficient bleeding; one pig carcase - extensive bruising, collected for non-edible manufacture.

No special examination of a consignment of foodstuffs has been necessary.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations, 1947 - 52

No manufacturer in the area uses the heat treatment process.

Retail Food Shops

All shops in the district are "family shops" with dwellinghouse attached, apart from one only lock-up shop. Toilet accommodation and washing facilities are conveniently available. Retail vans are provided with soap and towels for personal use at houses in each village, by arrangement. First Aid equipment is kept available.

Licensed Premises

All ten premises have hot and cold washing facilities in the bar or conveniently available, detergents are also used in the washing up. Toilet accommodation is also available for both sexes at all licensed premises.

SCHOOLS:

The preparation and serving of school meals continues to be carried on in a satisfactory manner.

The suspect supply of water at Reeth School has now been discontinued, the supply now being obtained from the Council mains.

The toilet accommodation at the schools has been properly maintained

FACTORIES:

Routine inspections have been carried out during the year, 57 inspections having been made for the purpose. No action under Part 1 of the Act has been required.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS (Public Health Act, 1936):

There has been no increase in the number of these as dwellings.

CARAVAN AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960:

The coming into force of this Act, which requires that all caravan sites should have Planning Approval and be licensed, the latter by the local authority has resulted in 14 applications being made for this purpose. No large sites are operated within the area and only two of the applications concerned over three caravans, one for fifteen and the other for ten. The Council decided that any site carrying over three caravans would be required to conform with the Code of Practice for holiday caravans sites issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

MEAT INSPECTION:

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	11	15	1	465	53	-
Number inspected ..	11	15	1	465	53	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and C. Bovis. Whole carcases condemned	nil	nil	1	nil	1	-
Parts of carcase/ organs	3	2	nil	nil	nil	-
Percentage ..	27%	14%	100%	nil	·2%	-
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases ..	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	-
Part of carcase/ organs	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	-
Cysticerous Bovis	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	-

Number of meat inspection visits .. .. 204.
Total weight involved .. .. .. 15 tons 19 cwts.
Weight condemned (consisting of offal only) .. .. ½ cwt.
Main cause of condemnation - Bovine livers - cirrhosis.

NUISANCES:

Inspections for nuisances only	25
Number of nuisances found	20
Number needing abatement	20
Number abated during the year	20

GENERAL INSPECTIONS:

Drainage work in progress	72
Complaints investigated	14
Public Conveniences	72
Factories	56
Housing improvements works in progress	152

Licensed premises	81
Catering establishments	63
Food Hygiene Regulations	204
Registered food premises	283
Schools	23
Refuse Collection and disposal	86
Sewage works	39
Council water undertakings	114
Petroleum Regulations	32
Shops Act	122
Bakehouses	36
Building Byelaws	164
Rodent control	587
Caravan sites	103
Miscellaneous	68

CONCLUSION:

I have pleasure in again recording my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, to the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W.C. Speirs and to the Clerk, Mr. Malcolm E. Scott for the courtesy and assistance extended to me during the year. Messrs. J. A. Barningham and J. N. Whitehead continue to carry out their duties on the Refuse Collection and Disposal service in an efficient and satisfactory manner.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. V. McCaulla

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR